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mixed oxygen and hydrogen, which result from the decomposition of a grain of water, there be electricity concealed equal to 240 millions of one-inch sparks, when the mixture is detonated, so as to recompose water, a flash of lightning and clap of thunder ought to be the consequence, instead of the little bright flame and the trivial crack which occur.

But it is not merely this immense quantity of electricity that is unaccounted for. Professor Faraday conceives that the electricity which holds the elements of a grain of water in combination, enormous as its quantity is affirmed to be, can only be overcome, during decomposition, by an equal quantity of electricity. What then becomes of this second portion? What has become of the first? We have not been able to discover traces of either. No less than 480 millions of one-inch sparks are concerned in the decomposition of one grain or drop of water, and we can find no account of any portion of them.

Mr. Donovan thus concludes this portion of his paper :  
 “ I conceive that the rules of discussion warrant my running this hypothesis as closely to the impossible as I can. The higher the authority, the stronger must be the argument to give it any chance of success. It is on this account that I take the liberty of reasoning thus freely on the opinions of so celebrated a philosopher.”

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The President and Dr. Apjohn made some remarks on Mr. Donovan's communication, in opposition to his views, and confirmatory of the received doctrine of the identity of electricity from different sources.

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DONATIONS.

*A Silver Hiberno-Danish Coin and a Bronze Celt, found at Newington, County Kildare.* Presented by James Forbes, Esq.

*The Twenty-sixth Report of the Leeds Philosophical Society, for 1845-6.* Presented by the Society.

*The Head of a Cow and the Horn of a Bull ; two portions of Deer Horn and two Bones ; fragments of an ancient Iron Spear ; a Hammer and Ring ; fragment of a Crucible ; from a Rath in the townland of Cullanagh, parish of Ballyroan, Queen's County.* Presented by Joseph Ferguson, Esq.

*Nieuwe Verhandelingen der eerste Klasse van het Koninklijk-Nederlandsche Instituut van Wetenschappen, Letterkunde en Schoone kunsten te Amsterdam.* 12 vols.

*Précis Historique des Opérations Géodésiques et Astronomiques, faites en Hollande.*

*Beschrijving van eenen Toestel ter Verwarming van een Uitgestrekt Gebouw ; door A. Van Beek.*

*Verhandeling over eene nieuwe wijze om Afstanden te Meten, door wijlen den heere Hendrik Aeneae.* 1812.

*Over de meetkundige bepalingen ; door J. F. Schröder.*

*Onderzoekingen aangaande het Zwart in de Melisbrooden ; door C. M. van Dijk en A. van Beek.* 1829.

*Verhandeling over het verschil tusschen de Algemeene grondkrachten der Natuur en de Levenskracht ; door C. G. Ontijd.*

*Nadere waarnemingen en proeven over de onlangs geheerscht hebbende ziekte der aardappelen ; door G. Vrolik.* (Parts I. and II., 1845 and 1846).

Presented by the Royal Institute of Sciences, Belles Lettres, and Arts, of the Low Countries.

*A Silver Reliquary.* Presented by Dr. A. Smith.

*An ancient Irish War Axe, made of Iron, found in the bed of the River Boyne, near Castle Richard.* Presented by General Birch, R. A.

*Fragments of an old Irish Folio Manuscript, on Paper ; part of a larger Work in the Library of the Academy, described at page 157 in the Catalogue of the Collection of Irish Manuscripts lately purchased from Messrs. Hodges & Smith.*

“ The fifteen unpagéd loose leaves at the end of this

volume appear to be part of a translation into Irish, from some other language, of the ancient history of the Greeks, Romans, Persians, &c. These leaves are not in the same handwriting as the preceding treatise on medicine, nor do they appear to have been at any time part of the volume. The second page is marked Chapter III., between which and Chapter VI., on the fifth page following, no other chapter intervenes, so the leaves are not consecutive. The style of the translation is that of the early part of the sixteenth century."

The fragment now presented begins with the end of Chapter I. It contains the whole of Chapter II., and the beginning of Chapter III.

The following is a translation of the heading of Chapter II.:

"The second chapter, in which Belus, Ninus, and Semiramis, are spoken of, and of their successors in the kingdom of Babilon, until the fifth year of the reign of Sethos."

The chapter then opens in words to this effect: "Syn-cellus says, following the opinions of Halanicus, Ctesias, Halicarnassus, and Hephalion, that Abraham was fourteen years dwelling in the country of Canaan, when Belus came to conquer Babilon."

Page 7 contains a list of the Judges and Chiefs of the Children of Israel, and of the contemporary kings of Egypt.

The third chapter: "Of the kings of Asiria from the time of Laostines to the nineteenth year of the reign of Nabuchadonosor, who plundered and destroyed the Temple."

Presented by Eugene Curry, Esq.

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ERRATA IN PRECEDING NUMBER.

Page 383, line 3, for "the Rev. M. Roberts" read "Mr. M. Roberts."

" 385, ,, 6, for "Mr. M. Roberts" read "the Rev. W. Roberts."

" 385, ,, 15, for  $\frac{x^2}{b^2} - \frac{y^2}{a^2} = 1$ , read  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = -1$ .